Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Sub-Saharan Africa

FBIS-AFR-96-057

CONTENTS

22 March 1996

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa: Doctors Release 3-Page Health Report on Mandela *[SAPA]* 1
South Africa: Mandela Attempts To Clarify Police Conspiracy Remarks *[SAPA]* 1
South Africa: Buthelezi — 'Cultural Accoutrements' Ban Threatens Elections *[SAPA]* 1
South Africa: 'New Relationship' Cited With U.S. Armed Forces *[Johannesburg Radio]* 2

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Angola

Angola: President Dos Santos Meets UN's Beye *[Luanda TV]* 3
Angola: Portuguese Army Chief Says Cooperation To Increase *[Luanda Radio]* 3
Angola: French Envoy Links Investment to Successful Peace Process *[Jamba Voz da Resistencia]* 3
Angola: Savimbi Seeks Foreign Affairs Role as Vice President *[London International]* 3

Lesotho

Lesotho: 'Deep-Seated' Problems Exposed Among Ruling Party Factions *[SAPA]* 4

Mozambique

Mozambique: President Chissano Receives Religious Leaders *[Maputo Radio]* 4
Mozambique: Police Discover Arms Caches in Maputo Province *[Maputo Radio]* 5

Namibia

Namibia: Defense Memorandum of Understanding Signed With Ghana *[DIE REPUBLIKEIN 7 Mar]* 5

Swaziland

Swaziland: Tripartite Forum Chairman Says Negotiations Halted *[Mbabane Radio]* 5

Zambia

Zambia: UNIP Plans To Make Sure Kaunda in Presidential Race *[THE POST 21 Mar]* 5
Zambia: Government Urged To Relax Stock Exchange Regulations *[THE POST 21 Mar]* 6
Zambia: Chiluba's Housing Price Intervention Discussed *[THE POST 22 Mar]* 6

WEST AFRICA

Benin

Benin: Further Details on Detention of Statistics Chief *[AFP]* 8
Benin: Correspondent Reports Gunfire, Troop Movements in Cotonou *[London International]* 8
Benin: Government Prohibits Media Reportage on Election Results *[Pararitou Radio]* 9
Benin: Home of Constitutional Court Member Machine-Gunned *[AFP]* 9
Benin: AFP Names Court Member Targeted in Gun Attack on House 9
Benin: Defense Minister, Private Chief of Staff Dismissed *[Cotonou Radio]* 9

Cote d'Ivoire

Cote d'Ivoire: President Bedie Receives Cameroon Official, Biya Message *[Abidjan TV]* 10

Cote d'Ivoire: Opposition Newspaper LE RELAIS Suspends Publication *[SOIR INFO 20 Mar]* 10

The Gambia

The Gambia: Government Freezes Former President Jawara's Assets *[Libreville Radio]* 11

Liberia

Liberia: NPFL Withdraws From Occupied Townships *[London International]* 11

Mali

Mali: Ghana's Chambas on Joint Ties, Liberian Situation *[Bamako Radio]* 12

Nigeria

Nigeria: Abacha's Powers in Elections Decree Provisions Highlighted *[Lagos TV]* 12
Nigeria: NECON Says Remaining Election Stages Set for 23, 25 Mar *[Lagos TV]* 13
Nigeria: Adequate Fuel Stock Reportedly Available Nationwide *[Lagos TV]* 13

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone: President-Elect Pledges To Continue With Peace Process *[Freetown Radio]* 13
Sierra Leone: Guinean Official Views Peace Dynamic *[Libreville Radio]* 14

South Africa: Doctors Release 3-Page Health Report on Mandela

MB2203122196 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1152 GMT 22 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN March 22 SAPA — The Surgeon- General on Friday released a detailed report on President Nelson Mandela's health, saying his heart and arteries were in an "entirely satisfactory" state and he was physically fit for a man of his age.

The three-page report follows Mandela's recent extended checkup in a Johannesburg clinic.

The Surgeon-General, Lt-Gen Daniel Knobel, said Mandela had agreed that a detailed description of his past and current medical problems be issued to the media by representatives of the panel of doctors who had been treating him since his release from detention.

South Africa: Mandela Attempts To Clarify Police Conspiracy Remarks

MB2103164496 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1638 GMT 21 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEWCASTLE March 21 SAPA — President Nelson Mandela says the South African Police Service [SAPS] is being infiltrated by "agents provocateurs" who are planning to overthrow the present government.

Addressing community leaders in Newcastle in KwaZulu-Natal on Thursday, Mandela said there were still "powerful elements in this country planning every day to overthrow this government".

However, [words indistinct] was no known [words indistinct] said through an interpreter later he had been misunderstood.

Addressing several thousand African National Congress supporters at the party's official local government campaign launch at Madadeni in northern KwaZulu-Natal later on Thursday, Mandela said the government was seeking ways to protect members of the SAPS while they performed their duties.

Speaking at the Madadeni College of Education, Mandela said he had met with Justice Minister Dullah Omar and Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi to discuss possible ways of protecting police members. Three policemen were gunned down in the KwaZulu-Natal midlands area last weekend. Another two were shot dead in separate incidents. "The continued murder of police personnel in KwaZulu-Natal is absolutely unacceptable.

"There can be no excuse whatsoever for killing the very same people who are in the front-line of our battle against crime," Mandela said.

He said while political violence had ended in all other provinces, it continued to cast a shadow on KwaZulu-Natal. On the scheduled May 29 local government elections, Mandela said he hoped the period in the run-up to the poll would set an example of political tolerance and peaceful campaigning. "To this end, the ANC has committed itself to a code of conduct for the elections which [words indistinct] of national uni ty for not delivering on election promises forgot his pre-election warning that the delivery of houses and other services was a process which would not occur overnight. Mandela said his government had inherited a R250 billion [rands] public debt from the previous government. That debt had been serviced at a rate of R28 billion a year and was also a factor which needed to be considered.

He said investors were returning to South Africa, which was an indication of their confidence in the country. He warned, however, that development in KwaZulu-Natal would remain a "pipedream" until stability returned to the province. He urged community leaders to take a stand against violence.

South Africa: Buthelezi — 'Cultural Accoutrements' Ban Threatens Elections

MB2103162196 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1550 GMT 21 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NDWEDWE, Northern KwaZulu-Natal March 21 SAPA — Violence could scupper KwaZulu-Natal's local government elections if President Nelson Mandela used an existing proclamation to ban Zulu cultural "accoutrements", Inkatha Freedom Party leader [IFP] Mangosuthu Buthelezi said on Thursday.

In notes for delivery, he also accused the African National Congress of evil attempts to diminish the role of traditional leaders who, he said, were crucial in local governance. Buthelezi, also Home Affairs Minister, was speaking at Kwadeda Stadium near the northern provincial town of Ndwedwe where he was canvassing IFP support for the May 29 local poll. "If the President uses the proclamation that is already in place to ban Zulu cultural accoutrements, this will be just the kind of provocation which might threaten peace in the forthcoming elections.

"It could also threaten any possibility of holding the imbizo [traditional Zulu gathering] which the President has suggested should be held... to ensure... peace and reconciliation between our two parties."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Mandela, Buthelezi and Zulu king Goodwill Zwelithini met Zulu chiefs last week to set a date for an imbizo — a Zulu national gathering — aimed at ending the province's long-standing feud between the IFP and African National Congress. Mandela had told the chiefs to think with their brains and not their blood, Buthelezi said, adding: "Let the president know, as the people of the province will let him know through their vote in the local government elections, that our blood and our brain are one and the same and our brain feeds on our blood and on the blood of our ancestors.

"Our blood knows as well as our brain knows that it is not those who sit in Pretoria who will take care of the needs of KwaZulu- Natal."

Buthelezi reiterated his claim that the ANC was bent on controlling the province from central government headquarters in Pretoria, partly by destroying Zulu chiefs. "There is an evil, compelling reason for what the ANC is doing. It is evil at work which wants to destroy amakhosi [chiefs] and the autonomy of traditional communities to enable the central government in Pretoria to directly or indirectly control any level of government and exercise its political influence across the land."

The ANC, furthermore, had attempted to diminish the role of traditional leaders by proposing an increase in the number of members on regional councils, bodies which are entrenched in the recently-created provincial constitution. "They want regional councils to be extraordinarily large beyond any reasonableness, merely to ensure that amakhosi (Zulu chiefs) become insignificant."

Buthelezi said he was "a Zulu peasant serving the aspirations of my own people". These people knew that it was the IFP and not the ANC which was acting in their interests, he added.

South Africa: 'New Relationship' Cited With U.S. Armed Forces

MB2203064196 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 0500 GMT 22 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The new relationship between the South African and American armed forces reached a symbolic high point in Washington yesterday, when the chief of the South African National Defense Force, General Georg Meiring, was afforded full military honors at historic Fort Myer. Gen. Meiring is on a five-day visit to the United States as guest of General John Shalikashvili, who is Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Gen. Meiring and Gen. Shalikashvili inspected ceremonial guard detachments of the U. S. Marines, the U. S. Navy, and the Third U. S. Infantry. Gen. Meiring is also scheduled to meet American Defense Secretary William Perry, and other top military and government officials, during his visit.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Angola

Angola: President Dos Santos Meets UN's Beye

MB2103210196 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 21 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At Futungo de Belas Palace today, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos received Alioune Blondin Beye, special representative of the UN secretary general in Angola and mediator in the Angolan peace process. At the end of the audience, Alioune Blondin Beye, optimistic as usual, told journalists that the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] will confine all its troops.

The meeting assessed the Angolan peace process. Alioune Blondin Beye said the recent speech by UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi should not raise concerns. He said UNITA will have to confine its troops because conditions have been created.

[Begin Beye recording, in French with passage-by-passage translation into Portuguese] The international community has established adequate conditions in confinement centers at a very high financial cost and great sacrifice. We visited the areas and found them suitable and acceptable. They have clean water, tents, and food, according to universal norms. The soldiers have three meals a day, medicine, doctors, and nurses. I therefore believe it is not fair to accuse the international community of bad faith. These accusations are baseless [words indistinct] people can inspect the confinement centers. I visited the areas, accompanied by delegations from the Joint Commission, including a UNITA delegation. We observed that minimal conditions had been created. People should therefore not use this as a pretext to justify other actions. It is not fair. I strongly oppose this tendency. [end recording]

Angola: Portuguese Army Chief Says Cooperation To Increase

MB2203094096 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 22 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Portuguese Admiral Fuseta da Ponte is about to end his visit to Angola. He is expected to do a few more things today and then leave for Portugal.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Good morning, Admiral Fuseta da Ponte.

[Da Ponte] Good morning.

[Correspondent] You have been in Angola for the last five days. Are you satisfied with what you have achieved so far?

[Da Ponte] Yes, I am very happy.

[Correspondent] So, Angolan-Portuguese military cooperation should emerge stronger?

[Da Ponte] As you are aware, my visit is part of many contacts the Portuguese Government, and now its Armed Forces, are having with Angola. Foreign Affairs Minister Jaime Gama was here one week before I began my visit. I would like to thank Radio Angola for getting in touch with me and I would like to take this opportunity to say that we have achieved results that will allow us to strengthen bilateral military cooperation. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Angola: French Envoy Links Investment to Successful Peace Process

MB2203094996 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 22 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] French Ambassador to Angola (Francois Jean-Pierre Gendreau) said in Luanda yesterday that his country will continue to support Angola's peace and national reconciliation efforts. He added that France is considering broad investment projects to encourage Angola's social and economic development, after the ravage wrought by a 20-year civil war. Ambassador (Gendreau) noted, however, that all will hinge on the evolution of the peace process. [passage omitted]

Angola: Savimbi Seeks Foreign Affairs Role as Vice President

MB2103210496 London BBC World Service in Portuguese 2030 GMT 21 Mar 96

[From the "Londres, Ultima Hora" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] It is becoming clear in Angola that Jonas Savimbi's acceptance of one of the vice presidencies in the future government of national unity depends on real powers being accorded to the post. Obviously, this depends on the revision of the Constitution. Jonas Savimbi is believed to have clarified his position when on 21 March he received government envoys Faustino Muteka and Higino Carneiro in Bailundo. Our Luanda correspondent Reginaldo Silva reports:

It is known that Jonas Savimbi is interested in two major executive posts being split between the two vice presidents, notably foreign affairs, and economy, finance, and social affairs. Each of the posts would be coordinated by the two vice presidents, with Jonas Savimbi keen on taking the foreign affairs portfolio. Savimbi is willing to become Angola's second vice president as long as that role is accorded to him, despite the unfavorable position adopted by his lieutenants. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Lesotho

Lesotho: 'Deep-Seated' Problems Exposed Among Ruling Party Factions

MB2203094296 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0755 GMT 22 Mar 96

[By Violet Maraisane]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MASERU March 22 SAPA — A legal battle among factions of Lesotho's ruling Basotholand Congress Party (BCP) has exposed deep-seated rivalries within the body and heightened tensions in the tiny mountain kingdom.

Trouble started three days after the BCP's annual general meeting (AGM) between March 8 and 10 when the High Court granted three constituencies an order declaring null and void the AGM's election of a new National Executive Committee (NEC).

Representing Khubelu, Thabana-morena and Mokhotlong constituencies, lawyer Zwelakhe Mda argued that the NEC had been fraudulently elected as the normal secret ballot method had been abandoned. He noted that in violation of the BCP constitution, constituencies were denied the opportunity to present their reports or to discuss the speech of party leader and Prime Minister Ntsu Mokhehle.

The showdown appears to be between a BCP faction called the Pressure Group, headed by outgoing deputy party leaders Molapo Qhobela and "Lingaka Tsa Pressure", led by Mokhehle's brother Shakhane, who was elected secretary-general of the new NEC.

A local newspaper, the AFRICAN regards the new NEC as a bid by backers of the ailing 76-year-old Ntsu to pass the torch on to Shakhane after he retires. The paper notes that in terms of the national constitution, in the event of a vacancy in the office of the prime minister, King Letsie III may instruct parliament to elect a replacement from within the NEC. A staunch BCP backer, on condition of anonymity, confirms this likelihood saying that some BCP supporters believe the party belongs to the Mokhehle family and that its leader should be succeeded by his brother. He notes that proposed changes are often met with the retort: "This party belongs to Ntsu. If you want to start making changes, establish your own party."

Party stalwart Moeketsi Tsatsanyane has also slammed the new NEC for unprocedural elections, alleging that the AGM was highly influenced by "thugs" who nearly went on the rampage. Branding these "thugs" as Shakhane's "people", Tsatsanyane accuses them of intimidating participants and thereby hijacking the meeting: "Eventually they ran the conference according to their precepts."

Tsatsanyane who has championed the welfare of ex-Lesotho Liberation Army [LLA] cadres who fought the Basotho National Party's [BNP] 23-year government, also slated Ntsu's prolonged failure to appear in public. He warns that unless the election results are annulled, the BCP should forget winning the 1998 general elections.

Some people, especially opposition members agree wholeheartedly, noting that given the shambles within the BCP, people such as the three coup plotters thwarted early this year, need not have bothered. The attempted coup, when the three opposition party members walked into the national radio station and declared a change of government, came two weeks before the AGM and the culprits are in police custody awaiting trial.

Instability has bedevilled Lesotho and undermined the Mokhehle's government since he won general elections in [words indistinct] all 65 constituencies. First the main opposition, the BNP sued government for allegedly rigging the polls, but the BCP won the court battle. Soon afterwards, fierce fighting among factions within the national army left three officers dead and injured civilians.

During the fighting, the then deputy prime minister and finance minister were kidnapped and killed by soldiers interrogating them about the LLA and arms allegedly being brought into the country illegally. Some ministers fled to neighbouring South Africa, but returned later.

As things were just beginning to calm down, Letsie dissolved parliament and seized power in 1994 backed by factions of the army and the BNP, until Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe intervened to restore the civilian government.

Letsie's father Moshoeshoe II, dethroned by the army in 1990, returned from exile and was reinstated. Then a few months later, the National Security Services arrested some deputies who were allegedly involved in gun-running, fuelling the flight to South Africa for many months of some of the accused and LLA members.

In January this year, King Moshoeshoe was killed in a motor accident.

Mozambique

Mozambique: President Chissano Receives Religious Leaders

MB2103150396 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1400 GMT 21 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Joaquim Chissano received a group of religious leaders at the Presidency of the Republic today. The religious leaders asked the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

president to personally intervene to speed up the return of church property nationalized by the state. They spoke about the most burning issues affecting Mozambican society, now by the repair of roads, schools, and hospitals; the standard of education; the country's economic rehabilitation; the high crime rate; the fight against drug trafficking; and corruption. The meeting also stressed the need for dialogue between different religious denominations.

Mozambique: Police Discover Arms Caches in Maputo Province

MB2203094196 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0800 GMT 22 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Republic of Mozambique Police, PRM, in Maputo Province have discovered two arms caches in Mapulanguene and Sabie, northwest of the Mozambican capital.

The arsenals included close to 120 anticar and antipersonnel mines, 23 rifles, three bazookas, and other military weapons. The arms caches were discovered last weekend.

Namibia

Namibia: Defense Memorandum of Understanding Signed With Ghana

MB2103150696 Windhoek DIE REPUBLIKEIN in Afrikaans 7 Mar 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] A memorandum of understanding was signed on 6 March between the Namibian and Ghanaian ministries of defense at the Ministry of Defense offices in Windhoek.

The agreement, observed by the media and senior Namibian Defense Force officers, was signed by Deputy Defense Minister Erriki Nghimtina and the Ghanaian deputy defense minister, Lt. Colonel K.T. Donkoh.

Nghimtina said during a news conference that the agreement is aimed at observing the procedures of Ghana's academic military training, senior personnel courses, junior personnel courses, and special cadet training.

According to the memorandum, defense staff will take courses in those fields.

Swaziland

Swaziland: Tripartite Forum Chairman Says Negotiations Halted

MB2103193796 Mbabane Radio Swaziland Network in English 1600 GMT 21 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chairman of the tripartite forum comprising government, employers, and the SFTU [Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions], Dr. Jeremiah Gule, says the negotiation process has come to a halt. This follows the pulling out of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions last week. According to Mr. Gule, the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions' leadership has in fact been removed from the negotiating table by the state following the preference of charges against it.

Mr. Gule noted that the state of industrial relations in the country has been severely jeopardized by the recent action taken by the state. He said the timing of government is horrible again in this case. In a statement Mr. Gule said he still believes in the process of negotiations and sees it as the only option for a way forward. He said this is the right time to rise above petty differences and chart a national direction.

Mr. Gule was responding to numerous enquiries made by the public that has been following and supporting the tripartite negotiations process. The negotiations started on 10 February but were halted after the SFTU leadership withdrew from the tripartite on 15 March 1996. Today it was reported that the entire SFTU negotiating team has been served with summons to appear in court.

Meanwhile, Dr. Gule revealed that since the negotiations began the climate has never been conducive for fully fledged negotiations. In his statement, Mr. Gule said on numerous occasions the parties have had to deal with issues pertaining to the uncertainties. The SFTU leadership spoke of rumors about their impending arrest, as well as other labor leaders.

Mr. Gule stated that these rumors were taken into account and the government team was told about them, but pleaded ignorance and promised to investigate. The SFTU team wrote to Mr. Gule on 21 February '96, raising a number of issues, particularly about the Public Order Gazette of 18 January '96. Dr. Gule continued to say that he wrote a letter to the prime minister asking him to remove the said gazette as a way of assisting the process of negotiations, but up to today no reply has been received.

Zambia

Zambia: UNIP Plans To Make Sure Kaunda in Presidential Race

MB2103132496 Lusaka THE POST in English 21 Mar 96

[Report by George Jambwa; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United National Independence Party (UNIP) is working on what it calls a "master

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

plan" to thwart any attempts to bar its president, Kenneth Kaunda, from contesting the forthcoming presidential elections.

Addressing pressmen in Lusaka yesterday, UNIP publicity secretary Bweendo Mulengela said the master plan was already on the drawing board and would be set in motion if attempts to bar Kaunda are made.

"We will unveil our master plan if MMD [Movement for Multiparty Democracy] attempts to bar our presidential candidate from contesting the forthcoming presidential elections," Mulengela promised, adding: "The plan is already on the drawing board."

But Mulengela declined to disclose the contents of the master plan. "I can't disclose what the plan contains as at now. But all I can say is that it is a peaceful master plan. It does not contain guns or bullets. We are a peaceful party and we always discuss peace," he said.

Mulengela was reacting to government spokesman, Amusaa Mwanamwambwa's refusal to yield to UNIP's demands that the draft constitution bill, which contains a clause which bars second generation Zambians from standing for presidency, be withdrawn from parliament.

And in another development, Mulengela has announced that the UNIP central committee would meet soon and discuss health minister Micheal Sata's threats against Kaunda's relatives and other opposition leaders. "I will consult the central committee very soon so that we can discuss Sata and then we may consider making a formal complaint to police," Mulengela said.

Zambia: Government Urged To Relax Stock Exchange Regulations

MB2103132596 Lusaka THE POST in English 21 Mar 96

[Report by Sipo Kapumba; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Government has been urged to consider removing restrictions against foreigners buying shares in companies being floated on the Lusaka Stock Exchange (Luse) for the first time to boost the securities business.

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) chief executive, Mumba Kapumpa, told a seminar on Tuesday on emerging markets organised by Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM) that the initial objective of enhancing share ownership by Zambians had largely been achieved with about 9,000 Zambians now owning shares in Chilanga Cement and Rothmans of Pall Mall which were floated last May and November. "Maybe there is a need not to restrict shares to Zambians. The restriction was justifiable at the beginning but now it is unreasonable especially because we want to attract money into the economy," Kapumpa said.

Kapumpa, who was speaking in his personal capacity argued that since foreigners were allowed to buy shares once they were listed on the secondary market, they might as well be allowed to participate in the initial flotations. At present, deeds of the Zambia Privatisation Trust Fund (ZPTF) stipulate that shares previously owned by government can only be offered to Zambians through initial public offers while foreigners can only buy them once they are listed on the exchange through the secondary market. [passage omitted]

Zambia: Chiluba's Housing Price Intervention Discussed

MB2203070496 Lusaka THE POST in English 22 Mar 96

[Report by Sipo Kapumba and Mervin Syafunko; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] A prominent Lusaka property evaluator says the current price slash on council houses by President Chiluba should be treated as a "proposal subject to confirmation."

Sonny Mulenga of S.P. Mulenga Associates said in an interview on Tuesday [19 March] that the President was expressing an opinion. "The prices the President is giving don't seem conclusive. He is merely expressing an opinion, "Mulenga said.

However, he added that some of the prices the President was quoting could be right; "He may be right in his guesses. It shall have to be justified properly." Since Saturday, Chiluba has toured various townships in Lusaka and Copperbelt where city councils are selling houses and have decreed drastic cuts in the prices. He has suggested that the most dilapidated structures should be given away freely.

Albert Kabwe, a partner in Premier Property consultants of Lusaka, said the impact of the sharp reduction in the prices of houses remained to be felt. However, he said the market value of an average three bedroom house along the line of rail was between K15 and K25 million [kwachas]. Compared with the council's average price of about K2.5 million, he said the council prices were fair.

"Socially, what the President is doing is good because it will enable people to acquire properties at give-away prices," Kabwe said, but warned: "Councils will lose out on potential revenue because they are being dictated to. The money could have been used to provide other amenities."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kabwe noted that interference in the sale of council houses was there in the Second Republic and what Chiluba was doing was not new, even though he had denied it was a political gimmick.

Dennis Wood of D.Wood Consultants and Investment Limited said the presidential order meant that Councils were bound for absolute collapse. "There is no doubt that the Council's will be bankrupt if the President's directives are taken for granted and not studied seriously, because the Councils will remain with virtually no sources of revenue," Wood said in an interview yesterday.

But Mulenga said when arriving at the prices of the houses, the councils should have considered their age and the condition they were in. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Benin

Benin: Further Details on Detention of Statistics Chief

AB2103141796 Paris AFP in English 1327 GMT 21 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text Excerpt] Cotonou, March 21 (AFP) — Four men on Thursday detained and drove away with the deputy director of Benin's statistics institute which has been sorting out presidential election results amid a row as to who has won the poll.

The four, wearing civilian clothes, arrived at the national institute of statistics and economic analysis in the business capital Cotonou and forced the official, Maurice Bankole, to leave with them in a car, his colleagues said.

On Wednesday, statisticians announced that on complete but unofficial results from Monday's poll, the election had been won by former military ruler, retired General Mathieu Kerekou, who took 54 percent of the votes.

But this claim was hotly contested by supporters of the incumbent president, Nicephore Soglo, including Foreign Minister Edgar Yves Monnou, who said on the national television that it was clear that Soglo had won.

Bankole had stated on radio late Wednesday that he was in possession "since 9:00 P.M. on Tuesday night of figures from the 77 sub-prefectures and urban constituencies in the country".

He dismissed what he described as "allegations" by the president of the independent electoral commission (CENA), Leopold Dossou, who said that the commission had received confirmed results only from three of the west African country's six departments.

Kerekou ruled the country from a military coup in 1972 until Soglo, a former World Bank economist then heading a transitional government, defeated him at the polls on the restoration of democracy in 1991.

The "Chameleon", as Kerekou likes to be known, campaigned at the polls by presenting himself a man of the people and taking swipes at Soglo's connections and property abroad.

The incumbent president had also damaged his own chances with his reputation for autocratic rule.

One of Kerekou's close aides gave a veiled warning Wednesday that the army might not stand idly by if its champion was deprived of victory in the presidential polls.

"We know that men are meeting here and there for hours on end, and that plans are afoot [illegible] people and even create disturbances on the streets," Albert Tevoedjre, the head of Kerekou's campaign team, told reporters.

Benin: Correspondent Reports Gunfire, Troop Movements in Cotonou

AB2103175596 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 21 Mar 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There is apparently considerable confusion in the Benin capital, Cotonou. Although the official result is not yet known of Benin's presidential elections, all the Indications are that former military leader Mathieu the Chameleon Kerekou has made a startling come back, beating the incumbent president, Nicephore Soglo, by a narrow margin, but the Soglo camp has been hotly disputing it. There have been reports of arrests of election officials, rumors of troop movements, and now it seems citizens are in the grip of chaos and panic and taking to their heels. On the line to Cotonou, Tom Porteous asked our correspondent, Karim Okanla, a few minutes ago, what was going on:

[Begin recording] [Okanla] Thousands of panic-stricken people are fleeing Cotonou right now and trying to get out of their workplaces and their homes as soon as possible. Most of them are fleeing in the direction of Porto Novo. I myself was there just 30 minutes ago trying to cross the old bridge and somebody even almost hit me. A big heavy truck almost hit me and I really had to make a U-turn to get to Porto Novo to get out of Cotonou as soon as possible.

[Porteous] What are these people fleeing from?

[Okanla] Well, there are reports of gunshots and troop movements. We've heard that some troops left somewhere on their trucks and they were heading in the direction of the Presidency, but we really don't know. There is no way I can confirm that. On my way I saw police patrol officers, I mean highway police officers patroling the streets and I talked to them and the made a radio communication with their base and their base told them that the situation was calm in some areas but it was completely confusing in other areas. So no one really knows exactly what is going on right now in Cotonou.

[Porteous] Did you hear gunshots yourself?

[Okanla] I have not heard gunshots but people are just fleeing in every direction.

[Porteous] How many people would you say were on the move?

[Okanla] Well, I can't tell. I mean thousands of people. People were on their bikes. Some people were on foot.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

I was myself driving my car and like I said I almost got hit by a big truck. So really, people are just trying to get out of Cotonou as soon as possible and we really don't know.

[Porteous] What do you think is actually going on?

[Okanla] Well, Mr. Edgar Yves Monou, who is the minister of foreign affairs, said last night that there was going to be a press conference this morning at 1000 GMT and that he was going to release the official results he had and that the results were showing Soglo in the lead, but actually when we got there this morning, he told us to come back this afternoon and that was what I was about to do when people started running amok and fleeing, you know, trying to get out of Cotonou as soon as possible.

[Porteous] Now, of course, Kerekou's camp has said that Soglo and his people want to claim victory for themselves, even though Kerekou seems to have won the elections and do you think that this shooting may be by Kerekou's supporters in the military?

[Okanla] We really don't know right now. The situation is very confused. We are maybe expecting a statement by either party, either by the Kerekou party of the Soglo government on the national radio but so far, we haven't heard anything on the national radio and broadcast on national television is going to get under way soon. [end recording]

Benin: Government Prohibits Media Reportage on Election Results

AB2103203596 Pararkou Office de Radiodiffusion-Television du Benin Radio in French 2000 GMT 21 Mar 96

[Statement issued by the High Authority on Audiovisual and Communications on 21 March; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] While waiting the announcement of final results in the runoff presidential election by the Constitutional Court, in conformity with the provisions of the 11 December 1990 Constitution, the High Authority on Audiovisual and Communications [HAAC], after deliberating at its session on Thursday 21 March 1996, wishes to inform the public that beginning from the present statement, state-owned media are allowed to announce only provisional results that have been forwarded to them by the Independent National Electorial Commission. Consequently, all requests to be on air on radio and on television or to have an interview published in the written press, in particular in LA NATION newspaper, must be forwarded to the HAAC. No news conference nor statement concerning the said election must be carried by any state-owned media without the prior agreement of the HAAC.

[Signed] HAAC Chairman Rene Meyinhoue Dota

Benin: Home of Constitutional Court Member Machine-Gunned

AB2203091396 Paris AFP in French 0844 GMT 22 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cotonou, 22 Mar (AFP) — The house of a member of the Beninese Constitutional Court, the only body which has the power to proclaim the final results of the presidential election in Benin, was machine-gunned last night by unknown people in Cotonou, it was learned today from sources close to the Court.

There were no reports on casualties.

Benin: AFP Names Court Member Targeted in Gun Attack on House

AB2203103596 Paris AFP in English 0918 GMT 22 Mar 96

[By Anne Le Coz]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Cotonou, March 22 (AFP) — Unidentified gunmen fired shots at the home of a member of Benin's constitutional court, the body due to announce the outcome of presidential elections, a source close to the court said Friday.

No victims were reported in the overnight attack on the home of Maurice Glele-Ahanhanzo, which came after a report that former military ruler Mathieu Kerekou had won at the polls.

This claim has been denied by supporters of the incumbent head of state Nicephore Soglo, who defeated Kerekou in the first elections after the return to multiparty democracy in 1991.

Constitutional court members and their families have twice received death threats since the first round of voting in the small west African country on March 3. [passage omitted]

Benin: Defense Minister, Private Chief of Staff Dismissed

AB2203123996 Cotonou Office de Radiodiffusion-Television du Benin Radio in French 1215 GMT 22 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Desire Vieyra and General Basile Dadele were today relieved of their functions. A communique issued by the minister in charge of relations with institutions and government

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

spokesman says Desire Vieyra, minister of state in charge of the coordination of government activities and national defense, is relieved of all his functions. The functions of the minister of defense will henceforth be assumed by the head of government. This decision takes effect from today Friday, 22 March 1996.

The communique is signed by Theodore Holo, minister in charge of relations with institutions and government spokesman.

Another communique says General Basile Dadele is relieved of his functions as private chief of staff of the president of the Republic. This decision also takes effect from today, Friday 22 March 1996.

Cote d'Ivoire

Cote d'Ivoire: President Bedie Receives Cameroon Official, Biya Message

AB2203115996 Abidjan La Chaine Une Television Network in French 2000 GMT 21 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Henri Konan Bedie this evening received Joseph Owona, Cameroonian minister of health and President Paul Biya's special envoy with a message for the Ivorian head of state. Abiba Dembele and Pascal Amani Kouadio were there:

[Begin recording] [Kouadio] Cameroonian Health Minister Joseph Owona arrived in Abidjan this morning. The Cameroonian emissary is the bearer of a message from President Paul Biya to the Ivorian head of state. President Henri Konan Bedie received the Cameroonian health minister this evening for half an hour in the presence of Health Minister Maurice Kakou Guikahue. Joseph Owona spoke to the press after the audience:

[Owona] It is a very great honor to be here in Cote d'Ivoire and especially to be received by President Konan Bedie. As you know, Cameroon and Cote d'Ivoire maintain very tight relations of brotherhood. That is why there must be consultation and information as far as certain problems are concerned. I have come to see the president on the part of President Paul Biya to inform him about a certain number of problems.

[Kouadio] What is the current situation of the Bakassi conflict?

[Owona] I think everyone is now conversant with the Bakassi problem. There are borders dating from the colonial period and for Cameroon these borders are internationally recognized. Since Cameroon has been a mandated and trust territory, these borders are well defined. You only have to consult your map and see for yourself. Suddenly, in 1992, we noticed that this map was changed by some of our neighbors. We saw that our neighbor [Nigeria] was occupying a certain number of points in the Bakassi peninsula. Cameroon and especially its president, Paul Biya, who wants to solve the problem through dialogue, adopted dialogue first. I must say that Cameroon has always held dialogue with Nigeria for more than 30 years. I can cite the Kano and Maroua agreements. Cameroon has therefore referred the case to the International Court of Justice, the OAU, and the United Nations. The court has adopted conservatory measures after the 3 February incidents. We think the court is going to give its ruling in accordance with international law and the prevailing principles in Africa — the respect of the inviolability of borders. [end recording]

Cote d'Ivoire: Opposition Newspaper LE RELAIS Suspends Publication

AB2103181096 Abidjan SOIR INFO in French 20 Mar 96 p 5

[Interview with Ladji Sidibe, editor-in-chief of LE RELAIS newspaper by Armand Depeyla; date and place not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Since 15 March, LE RELAIS daily which is close to the Rally of Republicans [RDR] has stopped publishing. The disappearance of this newspaper from the newspaper kiosks was sudden and unexpected because it has replaced "LE REPUBLICAIN" which itself had been given a three-month court suspension order. The disappearance of the paper from the kiosks is due to "financial difficulties" caused by the slump in sales. So, it is for financial reasons. This is the outcome of this interview granted to us by the newspaper's editor-in-chief Ladji Sidibe.

[Depeyla] The general newspaper of which you are the editor-in- chief, stopped appearing on the newstands on 15 March for the last time after its 34th edition. The general public is wondering what has happened.

[Sidibe] There have been some problems in connection with the slump in sales. As you are aware, after the elections period, all newspapers nationwide face a slump in sales because the readership is reduced.

[Depeyla] In the specific case of "LE RELAIS," what are your difficulties?

[Sidibe] Our problem is that we had just hit the newstands when we were confronted with three types of problems... I will mention the paper's name which was unknow to readers. Its launching was not matched with any sound advertisement campaign. As you can see, the situation with "LE RELAIS"is worse than that of other papers on the market. Up till now, we have been unable to resolve the administrative problems that

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

will make us accept advertisements. All these factors can make a paper's management difficult. In a nutshell, those are some of the reasons that made the paper to stop publishing.

[Depeyla] It is also mentioned that you have a financial problem with one of your partners.

[Sidibe] It is true that we have had some specific problems with one of our partners, in particular Arro-Multimedia. The paper's financial backers thought that it would have been better to wait for the suspension order on "LE REPUBLICAIN" to be lifted because the latter was better known by the Ivorian readership as being close to the RDR. They thought it would have been easier to promote "LE REPUBLICAIN" rather than investing heavily on a paper which would be off the streets in a matter of 10 to 15 days. This is why the management stopped publishing LE RELAIS and decided to wait until "LE REPUBLICAIN" is allowed again to publish. [passage omitted]

[Depeyla] As far as "LE RELAIS" is concerned, is the issue over? Are you now awaiting the "resurrection" of "LE REPUBLICAIN".?

[Sidibe] Yes, we have stopped publishing "LE RELAIS." In any case this was the outcome of meetings I have held with the manager. Of course, the RDR must have its newspaper. Whether now or later, it must have one because it is the second strongest party in the country. Whether the party has the financial means or not, it is the RDR's duty to have its own paper, it is to survive as a political party. So, we are getting ready for the return of "LE REPUBLICAIN" on the streets.

The Gambia

The Gambia: Government Freezes Former President Jawara's Assets

AB2103174696 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1215 GMT

[FBIS Translated Text] The Gambian Government has confiscated all the assets of former President Dawda Jawara, who has been living in exile in Great Britain since he was ousted from power in July 1994. The decision to confiscate his property, made up of 17 estates whose global value has not yet been established, follows a report by the commission of inquiry charged with the recovery of public assets and property. The commission of inquiry was set up after the military takeover in Banjul.

Liberia

Liberia: NPFL Withdraws From Occupied Townships

AB2103192996 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 21 Mar 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The troop movements by Charles Taylor's NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] in Liberia finally [words indistinct] the peacekeeping force ECOMOG [Economic Community of West Africa States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] into response last night. It told Taylor to withdraw his fighters from Kakata, Bong Mines, and Tudi which they have seized from Roosevelt Johnson's ULIMO-J [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia-Johnson faction] in the past week or so. But it wants Alhaji Koroma to report to the NPFL forces which are establishing themselves in White Plains and Bensonville, only a few miles north of the capital Monrovia. On the line to Monrovia, Tom Porteous asked the ECOWAS [Economic Community of West Africa States] Ambassador James Victor Gbeho if he had been in touch with Charles Taylor:

[Begin recording] [Gbeho] I have been in touch with Charles Taylor. I spoke to him less than a hour ago.

[Porteous] And what does he say?

[Gbeho] He is in agreement. He does not intend to stay in Kakata and he is arranging for a total withdrawal from the place.

[Porteous] But since he occupied Kakata, he has been moving into other places. It does not look on the ground that he is really ready to withdraw from areas around Monrovia?

[Gbeho] Well, I believe that it takes sometime to achieve a total withdrawal but certainly he has assured me and has assured the field commander also that it is not the intention of the NPFL to remain indefinitely in Kakata or Tudi or Bong Mines and that he implies to withdraw from those places.

[Porteous] Are you happy with these assurances?

[Gbeho] So far so good. I have no intention to question his integrity as this stage. We will give him sufficient time to withdraw. If he does not, then of course, we will move into higher gear within.

[Porteous] What kind of higher gear do you have in mind?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Gbeho] Well, there are several options left to us either here or at the level of foreign ministers, or even heads of state of the Committee of Nine etc...

[Porteous] But on the ground, there are no plans to force him out militarily?

[Gbeho] No. Let me correct one impression. The ECOMOG is not here to fight. ECOMG is here to keep the peace and whatever we can do through negotiation, we will do. Enforcement comes only as a last resort and I do not think that we want to put ourselves in the situation of believing that Charles Taylor is on the same plane as Roosevelt Johnson. It is a question of negotiating things with Charles Taylor. I believe that he means it when he says that he will withdraw.

[Porteous] What do you mean when you said that Charles Taylor is not on the same plane as Roosevelt Johnson?

[Gbeho] Well, what I mean by that is that Roosevelt Johnson behaved in a very erratic manner, attacked ECOMOG troops at Tubmanburg, and when he was discovered to have got arms into Monrovia and was asked to submit to a search then, he went and surrounded ECOMOG in Kakata, saying that if you touch my house in Monrovia, there will be trouble in Kakata. Now, that is that. The is not the sort of things that Charles Taylor is doing.

[Porteous] But it is not the sort of things he is doing now but it is the sort of things that he has Jone in the past. So, I think it will be fair to say that Charles Taylor has given more trouble to ECOMOG than Roosevelt Johnson over the period that ECOMOG has been in Liberia.

[Gbeho] No, I do not accept the two other things. We have moved into the Abuja agreement. We are in a new phase. There is a government here on the ground and so on. So, you cannot say that because he did it in the past, he is doing the same thing now. I do not think that we have reached the stage where we can indict Charles Taylor. [end recording]

We have just heard from our Monrovia correspondent that NPFL rebels have withdrawn from the townships such as Bensonville.

Mali

Mali: Ghana's Chambas on Joint Ties, Liberian Situation

AB1503101296 Bamako Radiodiffusion-Television du Mali Radio in French 2000 GMT 14 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Alpha Oumar Konare early this afternoon received Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Ghana's deputy foreign minister, who delivered a message from Ghanaian President Jerry Rawlings to President Alpha Oumar Konare. After the audience, the Ghanaian emissary briefed the press on the excellent state of relations between the two countries and the ways and means of strengthening them as well as the forthcoming Economic Community of West African States summit to be held in Accra on the situation in Liberia. Let us listen to Mohamed Ibn Chambas as he speaks to Reboah Siriki.

[Begin recording] [Chambas, in English fading, into French translation] I had the great honor to be received by President Konare of Mali who, as you know, is a symbol of democracy not only for the youth of Africa but for the entire African continent. He is a symbol which has generated much respect for the entire continent. I am bearer of a message from President Rawlings to President Konare. We also used this opportunity to exchange views on our excellent bilateral relations and looked for ways and means of further improving them.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct] a special problem?

[Chambas] [Words indistinct] in Liberia where one of the seven belligerent factions, the United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia-Johnson faction attacked the ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Groups] forces who are [words indistinct] the advancement of the peace process, which we begun some time ago. This is why we think we should reexamine all these problems and map out the path along which we can advance. [end recording]

Nigeria

Nigeria: Abacha's Powers in Elections Decree Provisions Highlighted

AB2203100296 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 21 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The attorney general of the federation and minister of justice, Chief Michael Agbamuche, has highlighted some provisions of the Local Government Elections Decree in view of some recent developments which, he says, would not have arisen if due reference had been made to the decree. In a statement, the minister drew attention to: section 1 of the decree which stipulates that the local government elections shall be under the direction and supervision of the National Electoral Commission of Nigeria, NECON; section 4, which caters for the qualification and disqualification of candidates; section 12, which stipulates that

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

court proceedings are not to prejudice conduct of election notwithstanding the provisions of the 1979 Constitution as amended or any other law; section 32, which provides for the establishment for each state and Abuja a local government council tribunal.

Chief Agbamuche explained that this tribunal shall, to the exclusion of any other court or tribunal, have original jurisdiction to hear and determine any questions on whether any person has been validly elected as a member a local government council under the decree. The tribunal shall consist of a single judge, who may be a retired judge of a high court or a person qualified to hold the office of a high court judge, and the appointment shall be by the chief judge of the state.

The justice minister also drew attention to parts of section 45 of the decree by which the head of state may remove the chairman of a local government council or dissolve the council and appoint an administrator to manage its affairs pending a fresh election — this being if the head of state is satisfied that on assumption of office, an elected councillor or chairman of a local government is found to be compromising his nonpartisan political standing or is found to be using public funds or facilities to advance the cause of a political party or association.

Justice Minister Agbamuche advised the general public to obtain copies of the Local Government Election Decree which are available at the government printers. He noted that last Saturday's [16 March] election, which was the first in the series, started on a highly positive note.

Nigeria: NECON Says Remaining Election Stages Set for 23, 25 Mar

AB2103143496 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Electoral Commission of Nigeria, NECON, has expressed gratitude to all Nigerians for the massive turnout at last Saturday's [16 March] election and for the confidence reposed in the commission and the transition program. In a statement signed by NECON director of public affairs, Mr. Steve Oshinaike, voting was successfully conducted nationwide in a total of 18,289 centers. This represents an overall performance of 96.8 percent. In view of this impressive performance, the commission will proceed with the remaining stages of the election on the 23rd and 25th of this month. The statement, however, said that NECON will, after due analysis of the results, consider the possibility of conducting by-elections where necessary.

Nigeria: Adequate Fuel Stock Reportedly Available Nationwide

AB2103152896 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Announcer] Motorists have again been reassured by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, that there is adequate stock of petroleum products nationwide and should, therefore, desist from panic buying. Figures made available to journalists reveal that there is adequate stock in all depots across the country for the next 15 days. While in the Lagos area, about 10.511 million liters of fuel was available to marketers at the Apapa depot as of yesterday, Walimosimi had a stock of 2.1 million liters. A visit by journalists to the Ejigbo depot today reveals that an average of 60 tankers have been loading fuel on daily basis since the beginning of the month. The depot chief at Ejigbo, Mr. Raphael Oniajam, gave out the quantity of fuel and the number of trucks that have received fuel from the depot since the beginning of this week:

[Begin Oniajam recording] Satellite depot is one of the busiest depots in terms of petroleum products liftings. For the past few days, we have loaded a lot of trucks. On the 18th, being Monday, we loaded 2.225 million liters, representing 85 trucks. On the 19th, being yesterday, we loaded 2.370 million liters, representing 81 trucks. [end recording]

[Announcer] Mr. Oniajam says loaded tankers are often accompanied by uniformed men to ensure the products are not diverted to unknown destination.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone: President-Elect Pledges To Continue With Peace Process

AB2103153096 Freetown SLBS Radio in English 2000 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president-elect, Alhaji Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, has said that there is no development without peace and security. Speaking to the GIS [Government Information Services] in Freetown, the president-elect reassured the citizens of this country that the repatriation, resettlement, and rehabilitation of displaced persons and refugees in neighboring countries top his list of priorities. He said he was highly impressed by the enthusiasm shown by the people of this country, which he described as a realization of the people's power to appoint and sack the president.

Foday Sankoh and his people are all Sierra Leoneans, he said, and they have the right to take part in the political process of their country. Alhaji Tejan Kabbah

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

stressed the need to take the initiative to meet the RUF [Revolutionary United Front] wherever they are and welcomed the process of peace talks already going on with Brigadier General Bio and promised to continue with it. He also promised to use whatever contacts he has internationally for the good of the nation. Referring to the SLPP [Sierra Leone People's Party] and the alliance with other political parties, the president-elect said they will never become a one-party state. What the country needs, he said, is a government of national unity.

Sierra Leone: Guinean Official Views Peace Dynamic

AB2103174496 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1215 GMT 21 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] General Maada Bio is expected to meet rebel leader Corporal Foday Sankoh in Abidjan next week. There is no doubt that the peace problem in Sierra Leone will be discussed. Furthermore, on the either side of the border between Sierra Leone and Guinea, elders have begun discussions with the Revolutionary United Front to consolidate this peace dynamic that has resulted from the presidential election. This dynamic was greeted by Guinean Government spokesman Ibrahima Sylla:

[Begin recording] [Sylla] The search for peace is difficult and must be undertaken in many ways. The elders on the two sides of the border have also accepted to join the battle for peace because it can only be a very good thing. An awareness campaign on the search for this peace is indispensable. I think after five years of fratricidal war, Sierra Leoneans must understand that the war can only ruin their country and impede subregional cooperation. We are at a stage where the march toward peace is being accelerated. We can only greet the elders' initiative.

[Unidentified reporter] The president elect, Amhed Tejan Kabbah, is demanding the maintenance of foreign troops, namely the Guinean troops, in the country.

[Sylla] Yes, it is a wish that he expressed. I would like to recall that we have a defense agreement with Sierra Leone and this agreement transcends the existing regimes because the Guinean troops have always been present there. It goes without saying that they would be prepared to leave if for one reason or the other the Sierra Leonean Government no longer wants the presence of the Guinean troops. [end recording]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 055
SPRINGFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited. Infringements of this copyright are subject.

Numbered indexes before the first sentence of each item describe the manner in which the material was processed by FBIS.

Omissions and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

Spelling of all place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified place name in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are preceded by a question mark. Words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are as heard in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

Allow [illegible] delays in receipt of the first issue.

END OF FICHE

DATE FILMED

26 Mar 96